



ATF NIBIN Program

Hits of the Week

January 27 to February 17, 2003



NIBIN Branch, Firearms Programs Division, Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives

Week of 2/17: Through NIBIN, Connecticut law enforcement has discovered links among six shooting incidents, and gained invaluable leads for further investigation. Six shooting incidents took place over the course of six months in Hartford; a total of two people were killed and eight more wounded. Because the recovered evidence was entered into NIBIN, correlation helped officers to link the shootings. As a result, police have additional information on the cases, and investigations continue.

Week of 2/10: Through the use of NIBIN, the Boston Police Department linked two armed felons to a series of shooting incidents. Officers responded to a report of shots fired at a residence, and discovered bullet holes in the front of the building and in a vehicle outside. Witnesses reported seeing two suspects running into the residence; these suspects, both convicted felons, live on the third floor. IBIS correlation discovered a link from the evidence recovered at this scene to two shots fired incidents during the previous month. Investigations continue; the link to the two additional crimes provides valuable intelligence information to ATF and local investigators.

Week of 2/3: Ohio law enforcement's use of the NIBIN program has helped two police departments find a valuable link between otherwise unrelated violent crimes. Dayton Police Department officers responded to the scene of a shooting; a deliveryman had been wounded by two suspects who approached him and stole his wallet. One cartridge casing was recovered at the scene and submitted for IBIS entry. Four days later, police officers in Piqua, Ohio, a rural community 30 miles north of Dayton, responded to a shooting. Police work revealed that the shooting had occurred in the course of a drug purchase. At the scene, five cartridge casings and two pistols of different calibers were recovered. IBIS correlation revealed a potential link to the incident in Piqua, a link that was confirmed by firearms examiners. Detectives from the two police departments then began working together and sharing investigative leads. Felony charges and arrests are imminent in the investigations.

Week of 1/27: By assisting Boston Police Department officers to link a series of shootings not otherwise known to be related, NIBIN offers new leads to assist in clearing cases in which no additional information is available. In a narcotics enforcement action, officers seized a .40 caliber pistol and a quantity of marijuana, and arrested three suspects on State firearm and drug charges. When the seized weapon was testfired and entered into NIBIN, the system revealed potential linkages to three earlier shootings over the course of the previous eighteen months, links that then were confirmed by firearms examiners. Two victims had been killed and three more injured in the linked shootings. Because no suspects had been identified in two of the three linked shootings, this connection between the incidents provides valuable intelligence information, and investigations are continuing in the cases.